AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked-up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis, underlined text indicating insertions, and strike through and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. – 23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) A DNA fragment for causing a cell to produce an arbitrary protein, said DNA fragment comprising:

cDNA of a virus vector that has been constructed by inserting a coding gene of an arbitrary protein into an RNA virus; and

a ribozyme sequence ligated to the 3' end of the virus vector cDNA,

wherein the virus vector originates in a plant virus that has a suppressor against a silencing reaction of plants, and

the ribozyme sequence includes a ribozyme sequence of satellite tobacco ringspot virus.

25.-27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) A DNA fragment as set forth in claim ~~27~~24, wherein the virus vector originates in a tobamovirus.

29. (Original) A DNA fragment as set forth in claim 28, wherein the virus vector comprises one of tobacco mosaic virus vector and tomato mosaic virus vector.

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Previously Presented) A DNA fragment as set forth in claim 24, wherein the coding gene of an arbitrary protein is inserted into a downstream side of a promoter of a gene that encodes a coat protein of the virus.

32. (Previously Presented) A DNA fragment as set forth in claim 24, wherein the cDNA of the virus vector that has incorporated the coding gene of an arbitrary protein, and the ribozyme sequence ligated to the 3' end of the virus vector cDNA are transcribed under control of an inducible promoter that is located upstream of the virus vector cDNA and the ribozyme sequence.

33. (Original) A DNA fragment as set forth in claim 32, comprising a gene that encodes a transcription factor for controlling transcription induced by the inducible promoter.

34. (Previously Presented) A DNA fragment as set forth in claim 33, wherein the transcription is controlled by steroid hormone, estrogen, or ecdysone.

35. (Original) A DNA fragment as set forth in claim 34, wherein the transcription is controlled by (i) GVG, which is a transcription factor whose transcription inducing ability is activated by steroid hormone, and (ii) 6XUASga14, which is a promoter induced by activated GVG.

36. (Original) A DNA fragment as set forth in claim 34, wherein the transcription is controlled by (i) XVE, which is a transcription factor whose transcription inducing ability is activated by estrogen, and (ii) O_{LexA}-46, which is a promoter induced by activated XVE.

37. (Previously Presented) A vector, which includes the DNA fragment of claim 24, and has an ability to be incorporated in a cell genome.

38. (Cancelled).

39. (Previously Presented) A transforming kit, which comprises at least one of the DNA fragment of claim 24, and a vector including the DNA fragment of claim 24.

40. (Previously Presented) A transformant, which is obtained with use of at least one of (i) the DNA fragment of claim 24, (ii) a vector including the DNA fragment of claim 24, and (iii) a transforming kit including a vector including the DNA fragment of claim 24.

41. - 45. (Cancelled).

46. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a transformant for protein production, comprising:

a first transforming step of transfecting a host cell with a transcription factor-expressing DNA fragment in which a coding gene of a transcription factor is ligated to a promoter for expressing the transcription factor;

a screening step of screening transformants, obtained in the first transforming step, for an individual expressing the transcription factor; and

a second transforming step of transfecting the transformant, obtained in the screening step, with a protein-expressing DNA fragment in which cDNA of a virus vector that has been constructed by inserting a coding gene of an arbitrary protein into an RNA virus is ligated to an inducible promoter which is induced by the transcription factor,

wherein a ribozyme sequence is ligated to the 3' end of the virus vector cDNA.

47. (Original) A process for producing a transformant for protein production as set forth in claim 46, wherein the transcription factor has a property of being activated by hormone.

48. (Original) A process for producing a transformant for protein production as set forth in claim 47, wherein the hormone comprises estrogen or steroid hormone.

49. (Original) A process for producing a transformant for protein production as set forth in claim 48, wherein LexA-VP16-hER is used as the transcription factor having a property of being activated by estrogen, and wherein O_{LexA}-46 is used as the inducible promoter.

50. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a transformant for protein production as set forth in claim 46, wherein the virus vector originates in a virus that includes single strand (+) RNA.

51. (Original) A process for producing a transformant for protein production as set forth in claim 50, wherein the virus vector originates in a plant virus.

52. (Original) A process for producing a transformant for protein production as set forth in claim 51, wherein the virus vector originates in a plant virus that has a suppressor against a silencing reaction of plants.

53. (Original) A process for producing a transformant for protein production as set forth in claim 52, wherein the virus vector originates in a tobamovirus.

54. (Original) A process for producing a transformant for protein production as set forth in claim 53, wherein the virus vector comprises one of tomato mosaic virus and tobacco mosaic virus.

55. (Cancelled)

56. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a transformant for protein production as set forth in claim ~~55~~46, wherein the ribozyme sequence is one of (i) a ribozyme sequence of hepatitis delta virus, and (ii) a ribozyme sequence of satellite tobacco ringspot virus.

57. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a transformant for protein production as set forth in claim 46, wherein the coding gene of an arbitrary protein is substituted with a gene that encodes a coat protein of the virus.

58. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a transformant for protein production as set forth in claim 46, wherein the transcription factor-expressing DNA fragment and the protein-expressing DNA fragment are transferred by an Agrobacterium method.

59. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a transformant for protein production as set forth in claim 46, wherein the host cell and the transformant comprise plants or plant culture cells.

60. (Original) A process for producing a transformant for protein production as set forth in claim 59, wherein the plant culture cells comprise tobacco cells.

61. (Original) A process for producing a transformant for protein production as set forth in claim 60, wherein the tobacco cells comprise tobacco BY-2 cells.

62. (Previously Presented) A transformant for protein production, which is produced by the process for producing a transformant for protein production as set forth in claim 46.

63. (Original) A protein producing process, which uses the transformant for protein production as set forth in claim 62.

64. (Previously Presented) A producing kit for performing the process for producing a transformant for protein production as set forth in claim 46.

65. (Currently Amended) A DNA fragment as set forth in claim 34, wherein the transcription factor is a chimeric protein of ecdysone receptors including a glucocorticoid receptor (GR) activation domain~~Act,~~ ~~and~~ a GR DNA binding domain (DBD), ~~and~~ a herpesvirus transactivation domain, and a Heliothis virescens ecdysone receptor (HecR) ligand binding domain (LBD), which are induced by ecdysone, and the promoter is GRE, the promoter being induced by activated chimeric protein.

*** END CLAIM LISTING ***